

MISS MASON'S WILL.

Questions Raised in Chancery.

[FROM OUR OWN REPORTER].

LONDON, THURSDAY.

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In the Chancery Division yesterday the will of the late Miss Charlotte Maria Shaw Mason, of the House of Education, Ambleside, came before Mr. Justice Romer, questions having arisen with regard to the bequests contained in it.

By the summons his Lordship was asked whether the devise of the freehold premises "Scale How" and the bequests of the goods and chattels there were valid, whether the trustees might apply the profits derived from the business of the House of Education, of the Practising School carried on at "Fairfield," Ambleside, and of the Parents' Union School should be applied for the purpose set out in the will, viz., of promoting the principles of education set out in Miss Mason's books and pamphlets, which included six volumes entitled "The Saviour of the World," "Short Synopses," and "Home Education."

Mr. T. R. Hughes, K.C. for the trustees, said the educational ideas of the late Miss Mason were highly thought of. By her will she left the freehold of her two houses to trustees so that they should carry on the work she had been doing, and she also left her personal estate for that purpose. Some doubt had been raised as to whether the gifts were charitable or not. In the latter event the question was, who would be entitled as it had been impossible to discover any next-of-kin. There was no evidence that Miss Mason had any relatives. She herself had said that she had none.

Mr. Dighton Pollock (who appeared for the Crown) said he did not think there was the slightest doubt but that the wishes of the testatrix should be given effect to. There was no doubt that these bequests were good educational bequests.

Mr. Hughes said there was also a direction in the will that not more than £200 should be devoted to the publication of volumes 7 and 8 of "The Saviour of the World," provided that Canon Rawnsley or some other fit and proper person would undertake the work. Unfortunately Canon Rawnsley had died and no other person had been found, so that the gift failed.

Mr. Manning, K.C. (who appeared for persons interested in saying that the bequests were not charitable) said he did not think Canon Rawnsley was willing to do the work.

Mr. Hughes said he gathered that "The Saviour of the World" was the Gospels put into verse.

His Lordship: I think Canon Rawnsley generally used a wise discretion.

Mr. Manning argued that the bequests were invalid because they were not charitable gifts within the meaning of the statutes.

His Lordship said they were gifts for religious, if not for charitable purposes, and he declared that they were valid. There would also be declarations that "Scale How" should be retained permanently for the educational work of Miss Mason to be continued, and "Fairfield" was to be retained until further order.

AMBLESIDE LADY'S WILL.

The Late Miss Charlotte Mason's Bequests.

Held to be Charitable Gifts.

On Wednesday, in the Chancery Division, the will of the late Miss Charlotte Mason, of the House of Education, Ambleside, came before Mr. Justice Romer.

His Lordship was asked whether the devise of the freehold premises, Scale How, and the bequests of the goods and chattels there, were valid, whether the trustees might apply the profits derived from the business of the House of Education, of the Practising School carried on at Fairfield, Ambleside, and of the Parents' Union School, should be applied for the purpose set out in the will, viz., of paying off the mortgages on the premises or of promoting the principles of education set out in Miss Mason's books and pamphlets, which included six volumes entitled "The Saviour of the World," "Short Synopses," and "Home Education."

Mr. T. R. Hughes, K.C., for the trustees, said the educational ideas of the late Miss Mason were highly thought of. By her will she left the freehold of her two houses to trustees, so that they should carry out work she had been doing, and she also left her personal estate for that purpose. Doubts had been raised as to whether the gifts were charitable. If they were not, the question was who would be entitled, as it had been impossible to discover any next-of-kin. There was no evidence that Miss Mason had any relatives. She herself had said that she had none.

Mr. Dighton Pollock (who appeared for the Crown) said he did not think there was the slightest doubt but that the wishes of the testatrix should be given effect to. There was no doubt that these bequests were good educational bequests.

Mr. Hughes said there was also a direction in the will that not more than £200 should be devoted to the publication of volumes 7 and 8 of "The Saviour of the World," provided that Canon Rawnsley, with some other fit and proper person, would undertake the work. Unfortunately, Canon Rawnsley had died, and no other person had been found, so that that gift failed.

His Lordship held that the other gifts were for religious, if not for charitable, purposes, and he declared that they were valid. There would also be declarations that Scale How should be retained permanently for the educational work of Miss Mason to be continued, and Fairfield was also to be retained subject to further application.